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CITY OF HEREFORD

Annual Report

for the Year

1963



City Medical Officer of Health

I. F. MACKENZIE,
M.D.(Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M. and H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

J. LEACH, M.A.P.H.I.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(as at 31st December, 1963)

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR JAMES HARDING

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Deputy Town Clerk

H. G. CULLIS (Solicitor)

City Medical Officer of Health

I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M. and H.‡

Chief Public Health Inspector : J. LEACH, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector : C. E. ATTFIELD, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed 23.1.64)

Public Health Inspectors : J. C. BUCKNER, M.A.P.H.I., Nat. Cert
(Building). (Appointed 6.4.64)
D. F. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed 6.4.64)
D. H. THOMAS, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., Dip.
(Smoke) R.S.H. (Appointed 5.3.64)

Chief Clerk : C. D. LOADER

City Surveyor

F. MARGERISON, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.I.W.E.

*Member of Health Committee. †Member of Housing Committee.

‡Part-time. Also Deputy County Medical Officer.

TO THE
**RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN
AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD**

The Annual Report now presented deals with certain aspects of the health of the City and with the activities of the Public Health Department in the past year.

The Report has been prepared jointly by the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself ; and the City Surveyor has provided sections on sewerage, public cleansing, and salvage. I am solely responsible for the opinions expressed in the preamble. The chief clerk, as is customary, has compiled the tables from departmental statistics.

Under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, the Medical Officer of Health is required to submit a report each year to the Local Authority on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration, the vital statistics, and any other matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report. That duty has now been discharged, for the year ended December 31st, 1963.

I. F. MACKENZIE,
City Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
HEREFORD.
Tel. : HEREFORD 3021

June, 1964.

PREAMBLE

Crisis in the Public Health Department.

During the latter part of 1963 and the beginning of 1964 the routine work of the public health department had to be drastically curtailed because there were insufficient public health inspectors to undertake all of the public health duties with which the City Council is charged. For a period, all except the most urgent work had to be set aside. Were it not for the good offices of the veterinary surgeons who practise within the city and who relieved us of the greater part of meat inspection at the Municipal Abattoir, a serious situation could have arisen. The reason for the difficulty was the failure of our earlier efforts to secure replacements for health inspectors who had left to take up more remunerative employment elsewhere. In consequence, we were unable to make appointments, and it was not until after the City Council had decided upon the upgrading of three vacant posts that we were able to obtain suitable applicants.

Throughout the past five or six years, local authorities, up and down the country, have experienced difficulty in recruiting public health inspectors to fill vacancies arising from resignation or retiral. Only in the case of Chief Public Health Inspectors and Deputy Chiefs has the response to advertisements been in any way satisfactory. Offering inducements, such as a higher level of salary, promise of housing, and so on, has enabled some authorities to outbid others and thus to secure applicants to fill their vacancies even though, by so doing, they have, inevitably, created unbridgable gaps in the inspectorate of other local authorities.

Competition between local authorities under conditions of shortage can have repercussions from other members of the staff of a public health department who are not involved in the shortage (particularly in the case of county boroughs); as well as from staff of equivalent status in other departments. It could lead to, or even initiate, a general all-round demand for upgrading and the salary increases that are linked to higher grades.

The long-term solution does not, in fact, lie along the line of offering inducements because, in the end, after comparable staff of other departments have secured their increases in salary to maintain the differentials and to preserve staff harmony, the public health inspectorate would no longer be in the position to point to their higher salary levels when encouraging potential recruits to enter public health rather than some other branch of local government service.

The most important step to improve the position, in my opinion, would be a change of outlook on the functions, duties, and status of the public health inspector in the context of the

Welfare State; and the official establishment of the public health inspector within the National Health Service as an ancillary Health Worker.

In that connection it is very important to recognise the profound effect that modern developments have had on the routine work, the daily duties, and therefore on the status of the public health inspector. For example, the more effective control and treatment of infectious disease, the rapid disappearance of slum dwellings in most parts of the country, the transfer to engineers of the supervision and control of water supplies and sewerage in all but the very small authorities, and so on, have inexorably taken away, or significantly reduced the time and effort that public health inspectors have, in earlier years, had to devote to such matters. The public health inspector is no longer the chap who, in the mind of the man-in-the-street, is there to supervise work on blocked drains, to search for bed bugs, and to disinfect after infectious disease. Moreover, the Inspector's own outlook has changed radically, and it will change further. His public health horizon is no longer bounded by gully traps and formalin sprays. He is more conscious of bacteriology and of personal hygiene than he has ever been; and, in relation to disease prevention and to public health generally, he thinks more in terms of teaching, of the instruction of workers and food handlers in the shop, the cafe, the food factory, and the home. In that sphere, the Health Education sphere, he has been quietly expanding his activities during the post-war years, and he has done less and less on other things that used to occupy the greater part of his time.

Unfortunately, so it seems to me, those changes are not yet fully recognised nor is their significance sufficiently appreciated, particularly in relation to recruitment, to grading, and to the maintenance of an efficient and effective public health inspectorate throughout Great Britain.

The training of the public health inspector for the 1970's should, I consider, be orientated away from the 'blocked drain outlook' to that of an exponent or adviser on public hygiene, which is the sphere within which, I think, he will do his most effective work, and where his biggest field for operations will lie during coming decades. It should be borne in mind that local authority surveyors, engineers, and architects can undertake without difficulty some of the work that is at present the province of the public health inspector. That should go without saying, but it is a hard truth, and a bitter thought, for many devoted public health inspectors of the old school, to accept.

We must never lose sight of that fact that no further major improvement in public health in Britain is possible (I leave out of account the forthcoming introduction of immunisation against

measles) until a substantial raising of the level of personal hygiene has been achieved. In my opinion the public health inspector has a key role to play in the achievement of that objective. It cannot be done by legislation; it will take place solely through instruction and example. Existing Acts of Parliament, and regulations made under them (with possible future minor amendments here and there) already provide sufficient powers and adequate guidance. What is, beyond question, lacking, is the personal knowledge, the understanding, and the will to follow the rules, not only among employers and employees in the food trades, but also among the public in general.

For example, the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, require that hot water, soap and towels and a " Now wash your hands " notice shall be provided for staff in food establishments. That is as far as the regulations go; or, indeed, can go. They cannot compel the employee to use the soap, water and towels. Some employees do not. The main reason, in my opinion, is not wilfulness or plain " cussedness ", but ignorance of the real reason why the law of the land requires the provision of articles for personal hygiene in all food establishments.

By all accounts, the standard of personal hygiene throughout the country as a whole is far lower than the public health service should tolerate. All of us are at the mercy of those persons, in all branches of the food trade, (and in the domestic kitchen), who have poor standards of personal hygiene. The widespread incidence of sonne dysentery, the occurrence of food poisoning, and the numerous cases of " tummy upset " can, in great measure, be attributed to them. The multiplicity of duties placed on public health inspectors by legislation or by council resolution, prevents them from giving as much attention to the highly important work of raising the level of personal hygiene as they would and should. It will continue as long as there is a shortage of public health inspectors and as long as the blocked-drain outlook is maintained in the Civic Hall or in the District Council Office.

There are other steps that I think could be taken in the hope that they might contribute to recruitment, and therefore to the continuing presence of a strong and enthusiastic corps of public health inspectors in Britain.

(1) It should be more generally recognised that young women who possess the educational qualifications and the temperament can, after training, be admirable public health inspectors. They can do particularly good work in the field of food hygiene, in the inspection of shops and restaurants, and in the education in hygiene of workers in the food trades. For too long, and to the disadvantage of the service, we have looked on the inspectorate as being really unsuitable for women. That is wrong. There is

a lot that could be said in favour of a proportion of inspectors in cities and urban districts being women.

The recruitment and training of suitable young women, should, I think, become established as policy by local authorities and the necessary steps should be proceeded with as a matter of urgency. We, in the City of Hereford, could start by engaging one as a pupil public health inspector. She (with possibly, a second one later) would be an attractive insurance against future staff shortage. I must, however, concede that the insurance value would vary in inverse proportion to attractiveness. Therefore, loss by marriage, after expensive training, might become a factor of financial significance, particularly to a small authority. To that extent, glamour could be regarded as a positive disadvantage by a selection committee.

(2) A change in designation might help in view of the altering emphasis in the work of public health inspectors; and the unpopularity among members of the public of the title 'Inspector'. It is too often associated with, and is probably almost as much disliked as the word 'snooper'. 'Public Hygienist' might be a better name. 'Hygienist' would fit in very well with the title of other workers in the health services, for example, dentist, chiropodist, therapist.

(3) The provision of an officially approved uniform to be worn by all Public Health Inspectors throughout the country, with shoulder flashes indicative of the local authority served, might assist in the creation of an *esprit de corps* such as is such an undoubted asset in the Health Visitor Service and in the Ambulance Service. *Esprit de corps* does attract recruits. If the provision of an attractive uniform can foster it, we should not be deflected because of opposition. We need public health inspectors; we shall continue to need them for decades yet: so anything that can attract recruits of a good type should be given very careful consideration.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	5,031 acres
Registrar-General's Estimated Mid-year Population	42,430
Number of Inhabited Houses	12,841
Rateable Value	£1,972,931
Sum represented by a penny rate	£7,500

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	416	416	832
Illegitimate	18	24	42
Live birth rate per 1,000 population			19.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			4.8%
Still Births—Legitimate	9	11	20
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births			22.1
Total live and still-births			895
Infant deaths			15
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			19.4
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births			20.4
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			9.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			9.0
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births			35.3
Maternal deaths			—
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births			—

The corresponding rates for England and Wales for 1963 were :

Live Birth Rate	18.2
Infant Mortality Rate	20.9
Death Rate	12.2

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths	195	205	400
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			10.6

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Deaths of infants under one year, of which there were 15 in 1963 were, in the main, due to prematurity, congenital abnormalities, and acute respiratory infections.

There were no deaths among the 42 illegitimate births.

Of the infant deaths, 9 were female and 6 male ; 5 of the female and 2 of the male babies dying within one week from birth.

PUERPERAL MORBIDITY.—There were 7 cases of puerperal pyrexia.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Routine Sampling.

The responsibility for supplying pure and wholesome water for the citizens of Hereford rests with the Herefordshire Water Board.

Regular sampling, week by week, at consumers' taps, is carried out by public health inspectors to ensure that the water is safe and potable. Sampling at the Water-works (the property of the Water Board, following transfer from the City Council in 1960) is undertaken by the Engineer and Manager. Copies of the laboratory reports on the samples taken by him and by us are exchanged, thus enabling the Board and the Health Department to be kept constantly fully informed. It should be remembered that not only the intake at the River Wye and the treatment works are the property of the Board: the distribution reticulum, throughout the city, was included in the transfer under the Herefordshire Water Board Order.

During the year, one hundred and nine samples of this treated water were submitted for bacteriological examination. The water was shown to be generally of the same high quality as in former years. Reports on the samples are submitted to the Health Committee monthly.

All premises in the City, with the exception of 6 houses supplied from wells, receive the supply direct from the water mains.

FLUORIDATION

In view of the renewed interest in the question of the fluoridation of public water supplies in Herefordshire, it is useful to record that the fluorine content of the City Public Water Supply was found to be 0.03 parts per million on 5th February, 1964.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Analysis of a sample of water from the City supply that was carried out during the year yielded the following results :—

Colour	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
pH	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.2
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
(Reciprocal Megohms per cm.)							
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hardness : Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Carbonate 50	Non-carbonate	...	...	...	...	...	20
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.036
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.080
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.06
Metals : Manganese	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.04
Zinc, Copper and Lead	...	...	...	...	...	...	absent

Turbidity	...	...	...	...	less than 3
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	6
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	110
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	50
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	absent
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	1.3
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	absent

“ This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron and manganese. The water is fairly soft in character and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It shows only slight colour, is of satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.”

RADIOACTIVITY

The testing of the water in consumers' taps at monthly intervals for radioactivity from nuclear weapon explosions was carried on throughout the year. The higher levels of radioactivity from this cause that we found at the end of 1962 continued almost to the end of 1963, when a reduction occurred that has, in general, been maintained. The source of this radioactivity is believed to have been pollution of the atmosphere by radioactive substances produced by the explosion of nuclear weapons at the end of 1961. This radioactive fall-out in the upper atmosphere comes down slowly to ground level, but it is precipitated in greater quantities by heavy rain and snow; and these larger amounts are, naturally, reflected in the occasional high readings reported by our Analysts. If no other explosions take place we can expect a progressive decrease of fall-out radioactivity in our water to the low levels that we were finding in 1960 and 1961.

Only a very small proportion of the fall-out radioactivity in our water is due to the dangerous strontium 90, or to caesium 137, and iodine 131 which also have harmful effects on man. Foods, and not water, are the main source of the strontium 90 in our bodies. Water is of greater significance in the case of babies, for obvious dietary reasons, than for the rest of the population; but all the evidence goes to show that our intake of radioactive substances from all sources is well below what is believed to be the danger level. That position would, of course, alter quickly during and after a nuclear war.

The amount of fall-out radioactivity in drinking water varies considerably in different parts of the country because of the

configuration of the land, the impounding of water in reservoirs, and so on. Much of the water in the River Wye after heavy rain in the Welsh mountains is run-off water from the hills, and the overflow by spillways from the reservoirs. Such water, that has not penetrated the ground, can have a much higher radioactive content from fall-out than water that has filtered through the soil and later found its way to rivers. The radioactive state of River Wye water, and its variations up and down, are, to that extent, and for that reason, different from some other rivers that are used for public water supplies; the bulk of whose waters are derived from limed agricultural land, springs, and small streams.

A leading authority on the radioactivity of public water supplies has commended those local authorities that monitor water supplies, as we are doing. He said, "Those (local authorities) who are examining water supplies are contributing positively towards our knowledge of the effects and significance of radiation of water". He added, "... the information they are now obtaining may be of vital use to future generations in indicating the general level of radiation to which the population in the middle of the Twentieth Century was exposed". So far as we are concerned, it will show the level to which the citizens of Hereford were exposed; and that information is even now being made available to the Ministry of Health through copies of our Analysts' reports.

PUBLIC BATHS

The public baths provide a useful and popular service to the community. Extensive use is made of them by country residents as well as citizens of Hereford.

Dissatisfaction with the present building, and with the length of the pool, by members of the Council and others, is well known. It has been the subject of comment in previous annual reports.

During 1963 still further consideration was given to the question of whether it would be better, in the long run, to provide a completely new baths, or whether modifications of the existing one would suffice. In addition the Committee thought that the provision of a learners swimming pool would be advantageous, if placed alongside the existing baths; and the City Surveyor was instructed to submit a scheme together with an estimate of the cost. The main difficulty about the erection of a completely new swimming pool is, undoubtedly, financial. Most members, if not all, would prefer to see a modern, larger, more attractive baths were it not that the cost would impose a heavy burden on an already highly rated city.

The Minister of Health has asked me to include in this Annual Report certain particulars relating to the existing Public Baths.

The Baths, which are of 80,000 gallons capacity, are filled with chlorinated water from the public water supply once a year. Filtration, chlorination, and treatment with alumina-ferric and sodium carbonate are carried out continuously while the baths are in use. The whole of the 80,000 gallons are purified every $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The Baths Superintendent and his staff make checks on the level of residual chlorine at stated intervals during the day; and the findings are entered in a permanent record. In addition, bacteriological analysis is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory on samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors about twice each month, while the baths are in actual use, and without prior arrangement with the staff at the baths.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The proposed extensions at the Sewage Disposal Works have been brought a stage nearer by the appointment of Consulting Engineers, working with the City Engineer, to prepare a comprehensive scheme. The most urgent matters are adequate facilities for dealing with storm water and the extension of the sludge disposal arrangements or their possible replacement by other methods.

In this latter connection a type of vacuum filter was operating for some weeks towards the end of the year and which appeared to give satisfactory results. Amongst other things, it was noted that the sludge cake was in a condition which would be extremely favourable for mixing with domestic refuse to form a compost.

In the meantime, the Works have functioned reasonably satisfactorily even though the strength and quantity of sewage continues to be extremely high. The constant speed motors attached to the biological filters are now working satisfactorily and the results are clearly to be noted in the absence of ponding. Undoubtedly the efficiency of the filters has been increased by this alteration.

There have been no significant additions to the network of main sewers, except that new housing estates, whether public or private, produce an additional quantity of foul sewerage to be diverted to the Sewage Works and surface water sewers connecting to the nearest water course.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Particulars of types and usage of Sanitary Conveniences at dwellings and industrial premises :—

Number of dwellings using pail closets	...	...	16
Number of industrial premises using pail closets			1
Number of dwellings with one W.C. to two houses			74
Number of dwellings with one W.C. to three or more houses	...	...	38

The houses using the conservancy (pail) system are mainly in the rural outskirts of the city where sewer connection is not reasonably practicable. For example, there are six in the Bullingham district, one in Breinton, four in Franchistone, and so on.

The dwellings in which closet accommodation is shared, are, as one would expect, scattered throughout the older parts of the city. Some of these are in confirmed Clearance Areas, others are in proposed Clearance Areas, and the rest are on the list for action under the Housing Acts.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

As indicated in last year's report, additional freighters have had to be purchased and these will be operative early in the new year. This service, which expands in direct relationship to increased development, is constantly under review to maintain an efficient service based on a weekly collection.

Contrary to expectations, the composting plant was not available in 1963, largely due to unprecedented delays in obtaining Ministry consent to the borrowing of the money. Indications are now much more favourable and the plant should be installed during 1964.

The Refuse Destructor at Edgar Street continues to work at maximum pressure but it is necessary at times to divert refuse to tip. The grit arrester has had a considerable amount of attention from the firm who installed it and after a particularly bad period of complaints at emissions from the stack, the plant would appear to be working reasonably satisfactorily.

The salvage position is still being maintained and the expected increase in revenue from waste paper has accrued. In this connection so much depends on a stable market, a position which was maintained during 1963.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The number and nature of inspections made during the year:—

Caravans and Camping Grounds	...	...	...	...	...	34
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	238
Cinemas and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	25
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	...	13
Diseases of Animals Acts	...	...	...	...	...	3
Explosives Act	...	...	...	...	...	31
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	173
Food and Drugs Act (Sampling)	...	...	...	...	...	61
Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	34
Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	72
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	407
Food (Unsound)	...	...	...	...	...	56
Housing (General)	...	...	...	...	...	629
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	78
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	36
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Staining and Sterilization Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	—
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	58
Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	46
Milk Sampling for Biological Examination	...	...	...	...	...	15
Merchandise Marks Act	...	...	...	...	...	80
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Noise Abatement Act	...	...	...	...	...	42
Nuisances (including inspections of drainage, sewers, sanitary conveniences and dustbins)...	...	...	...	...	...	824
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pest Control	...	...	...	...	...	75
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	161
Public Health Meat Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	103
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	425
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	7
Slaughter of Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	3
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Supply and Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	157
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	132
						<u>4,041</u>

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars of nuisances and other contraventions found during the year for which the requisite Statutory and informal notices were served :—

HEREFORD CORPORATION ACT, 1936

Choked Drains	30
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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936/61

Choked and Defective Public Sewers	21
Choked and Defective Private Sewers	5
Drainage Defects	26
Defects to Sanitary Conveniences	8
To Cleanse Sanitary Convenience	1
Housing Defects	13
Defective Roofs and Spouting	10
Dangerous Structures	1
Accumulation of Rubbish	2
Nuisances by depositing bread in neighbours' garden... ..	2
Insufficient dustbins	1
To provide space for dustbins	1
Nuisance by burning waste wool	1
Nuisance by misuse of W.C.	1
Defective hot water storage tank	1
To remove privy from building site	1
Burst pipes	1
To remove dead rats	1
Nuisances from keeping fowls	3
To disinfest premises of vermin	1

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulations... ..	95
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FACTORIES ACT

Provision of Sanitary Accommodation	20
--	----

SLAUGHTERHOUSE (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS, 1958

Contraventions of the Regulations	5
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MEAT (STAINING AND STERILIZATION) REGULATIONS

Ensure that meat is either stained or sterilized	1
---	---

CLEAN AIR ACT

Abatement of Smoke Nuisances	3
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SHOPS ACT

Contraventions of Section 38	2
Other Provisions	1

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT

To indicate origin of meat	...	...	...	...	6
To indicate origin of tomatoes	1

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963

Contraventions of Regulations	1
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MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT

Under certain Orders, etc., made under the Merchandise Marks Act, the origin of certain imported foods must be exhibited in the shop at the time of sale of such foods.

The Public Health Inspectors check on these matters during routine inspections of food shops and draw the attention of the management to any contravention.

Eighty special visits were made to food shops for this purpose during 1963.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

A list of the public conveniences in the City is given below.

Washing facilities—hot water, soap and towel—are provided free at Maylord Street and Union Street Ladies' Conveniences. At Maylord Street Gentlemen's section, a charge of 3d. is made for use of these facilities in a separate cubicle, whilst at St. Martins Ladies' and Gentlemen's Conveniences, access is by means of a 1d.-in-the-slot lock.

Consideration is being given to providing similar amenities at other conveniences where practicable.

<i>Conveniences</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Bewell Street	+	+
Bulmers' Playing Field	+	+
'Bus Station, Commercial Road ...	+	+
Castle Green	+	+
Cattle Market	+	+
Cemetery	+	+
Edgar Street	+	+
King George's Playing Field	+	+
Maylord Street	+	+
Newmarket Street	+	—
Ritz, Commercial Road	+	+
St. Martin's Avenue	+	+
St. Owen's Gate	+	—
Station Approach	+	—
Union Street	+	+
West Street	+	—
Widemarsh Common	+	+
Wye Street	+	—

CLEAN AIR ACT

NATIONAL SURVEY OF AIR POLLUTION.

This survey is organised and controlled by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Its purpose is to investigate pollution of the atmosphere. Two important pollutants of the air in our cities are smoke and sulphur dioxide.

Hereford having been selected, among other districts, as a town in which the measurement of sulphur dioxide and smoke would be of value to the D.S.I.R. in preparing their report on atmospheric pollution of the country as a whole, the City Council decided to take part in the survey, and to set up three stations. The stations are sited at the following points:—

1. The Gas Works, Mortimer Road, by kind permission of the West Midlands Gas Board.
2. Herefordshire Public Health Laboratory, County Hospital, by kind permission of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee.
3. Red Hill Secondary Modern School, by kind permission of the Herefordshire Education Authority.

Some difficulty has been experienced in maintaining the readings at No. 3 Station due to school holiday periods and lack of departmental staff. Consideration was given to finding a suitable alternative site.

Though there is a city byelaw under which grates installed in all new houses must be capable of burning smokeless fuel, there is no obligation (as yet) on householders to use smokeless fuels in place of coal.

FACTORIES ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	217	163	19	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	15	4	2	—
Total ...	248	173	21	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied to (3)	Number of Defects		Prosecu- tions (6)
			Referred		
			H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
Insufficient ...	3	3	—	1	—
Unsuitable or Defective	18	20	—	8	—
Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	10	—	—
Total ...	21	23	10	9	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i> (1)	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)</i> (2)	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i> (3)	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i> (4)	<i>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</i> (5)	<i>Notices served</i> (6)	<i>Prose- cutions</i> (7)
Wearing apparel Making etc., Cleaning and Washing ...	7	—	—	—	—	—
Making of cur- tains and fur- niture hang- ings ...	1	—	—	—	—	—

3.—OUTWORKS PREMISES.

Number of Premises ...	...	8
Number of Visits ...	...	—
Number of Notices ...	...	—

SHOPS ACT

SANITARY PROVISIONS

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Insufficient Ventilation	1	1
Lack of Sanitary Convenience	1	1
103 Inspections were made under the Act during the year.		

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Number recorded in the City—

Fellmongers	1
Gut Scrapers	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	1

No nuisances from these premises were reported during the year.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

There are five large caravan sites licensed, accommodating 122, 82, 52, 21 and 12 caravans respectively.

In addition, there are 6 small caravan sites licensed and accommodating a total of 8 caravans.

Number of visits and inspections	34
---	----

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property				(5) <i>Agri- cultural</i>
	Non- Agricultural				
	(1) <i>Local Authority</i>	(2) <i>Dwelling Houses</i>	(3) <i>All other (including Business Premises)</i>	(4) <i>Total of cols (1) (2) & (3)</i>	
(1) Number of Properties in Local Authority's Dist.	65	12,809	3,089	15,963	32
(2) Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification ...	12	46	40	98	1
(b) Survey under the Act	—	3	—	3	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	1	2	3	—
(3) Number of properties which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats { Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	6	35	26	67	1
(b) Mice { Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	5	4	16	25	—
(4) Number of infested prop- erties (in Sect. (3)) treated by the Local Authority ...	11	38	40	89	1

From the table above it will be seen that 0.3% of all dwellings and 1.3% of all business and industrial premises in the City were treated for infestations of rats or mice. Of agricultural properties (including piggeries), 3.1% were found to be infested.

RAT INFESTATION IN SEWERS

In the City, there is very little rat and mice infestation. It is found that poisoning treatments once or twice a year are adequate to keep such infestations under control.

PESTS CONTROL

In addition to the service for rats and mice destruction the Department operates a service for the control of insect pests. Advice is given on methods to eradicate insects found in and about dwellings and other premises. Where requested, destruction of such pests is undertaken by the Health Department at agreed charges.

HOUSING

In 1963, 339 dwellings were completed by the local authority and 144 by private enterprise.

532 families were rehoused by the Housing Committee during the year.

UNFIT DWELLINGS (Individual dwellings)

Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	99
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	5
Number of Undertakings not to relet	...	...	—
Number licensed for temporary occupation	...	...	1
Number of dwellings rendered fit for habitation...			28

CLEARANCE AREAS

During the year the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed two Clearance Orders affecting 11 houses, being Nos. 145-157 Whitecross Road and Nos. 32-38 Eign Road.

In addition, 46 unfit houses in Bryngwyn Terrace were purchased by the Corporation after private negotiations with the owners, in lieu of making a Clearance Area; and official representation was made on four unhealthy dwellings in Grandstand Road.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Improvement Grants are intended to help owners of old houses, which still have a useful life, to bring them up-to-date with modern amenities. The grants are also available for converting large houses into two or more flats or for making new dwellings out of buildings used for other purposes such as coach houses. Grants are not payable for normal repairs or renewals, nor for remedying faults resulting from neglect or poor maintenance.

Two kinds of grant are available under new arrangements introduced by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1959. They are called Standard Grants and Discretionary Grants.

To qualify for a Standard Grant, the house must, after the improvements have been completed, be provided with five standard amenities, namely, bath, wash basin, hot water supply with

connections, water closet, and larder. The grant, up to a maximum of £155, must be paid by the Council, provided that the requisite conditions are complied with.

The second kind of grant, the Discretionary Grant, is paid solely at the discretion of the Council. It is available for a wider range of improvements, the Twelve Point Standard as it has been called. The maximum grant per house in this case is £400.

During 1963, 29 Standard Grants and 1 Discretionary Grant were approved.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

No applications for certificates of disrepair were made during the past year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

In accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1956, all milk sold in the City is either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested ; and, in fact, a large percentage of the milk carries both these designations. In addition, five retailers sell Channel Islands Milk, and one retailer deals in Sterilized Milk.

The number of persons or bodies registered to sell milk in the City is 57.

PARTICULARS OF DESIGNATED MILK SAMPLING AND TESTING DURING THE YEAR

<i>Class of Milk</i>	<i>No. of Samples Tested</i>	<i>Appropriate Tests</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	
			<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Pasteurised	25	Phosphatase	25	—
		Methylene Blue	25	—
Tuberculin Tested ... (Pasteurised)	11	Phosphatase	10	1
		Methylene Blue	8	3
Sterilised... ..	5	Turbidity	5	—

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK AND CREAM

Six samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, for biological tests for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and *B. abortus*. All the samples were reported negative.

ICE CREAM

SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM

HEREFORD CORPORATION ACT, 1936

Number of persons and premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream	...	...	7
Number of persons and premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	...	...	161

One hundred and fifty-one persons registered for the sale of ice-cream obtained their supplies from ten manufacturers outside the City. Thus, only ten vendors sold ice-cream manufactured locally.

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1963

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

35 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital. These were subjected to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test and graded accordingly.

Samples placed in Grades 1 and 2 are deemed satisfactory, those in Grades 3 and 4 unsatisfactory.

TABLE A
RESULTS OF ALL SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE CITY

<i>Type of Mix</i>	<i>Provisional Grade</i>				<i>Total</i>
	1	2	3	4	
Heat Treated	15 (88.2%)	2 (11.8%)	—	—	17
Cold Mix	13 (72.2%)	2 (11.1%)	1 (5.6%)	2 (11.1%)	18
Total	28 (80.0%)	4 (11.4%)	1 (2.9%)	2 (5.7%)	35
	32 (91.4%)		3 (8.6%)		

TABLE B

COMPARATIVE RESULTS OF ALL SATISFACTORY SAMPLES FOR THE LAST
THREE YEARS

<i>Year</i>	<i>All Samples</i>	<i>Local Manufacturers</i>	<i>External Manufacturers</i>
1961	91.7%	90%	100%
1962	83.3%	84.7%	80%
1963	91.4%	89.3%	100%

FOOD HYGIENE

During the year the Public Health Inspectors made 511 visits to food premises.

Our contacts with the food trade, and particularly with the catering side, were maintained on as close a basis as possible, in spite of the restrictions imposed, in the second half of the year, by staff difficulties and pressure from other work. Fortunately, owners and managers are, almost without exception, very co-operative, and anxious to establish and maintain a high standard of hygiene.

FOOD PREMISES IN THE CITY

Preserved-food preparing premises registered under private act	...	...	...	...	34
Fish friers	...	...	...	...	13
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	4
Bakers	...	...	...	...	7
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	30
Sugar confectioners	...	...	...	...	35
Grocers	...	...	...	...	80
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	98
Catering establishments	...	...	...	...	160
Butchers	...	...	...	...	44
Ice-Cream manufacturers	...	...	...	...	7

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—INSPECTION AND CONTROL

There are no private slaughterhouses in the City. The Public Abattoir is now used jointly by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and the local butchers. The provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-58, are strictly enforced.

It is expected that the new Municipal Abattoir will be ready and in operation by the middle of 1964.

FOOD TRANSPORT

The transport of food is controlled by the City Bye-laws and by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960. Constant supervision of vehicles was maintained.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses and parts thereof condemned for Tuberculosis and other conditions at the Public Abattoir, Stonebow Road.

	<i>Beeves</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	4,616	320	14,576	6,955
Number Inspected	4,616	320	14,576	6,955
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis</i>				
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	2	5	17	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	843	5	778	762
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis or Cysticercus Bovis	18.3	3.1	5.5	11.1
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	50
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	0.02	—	—	0.72
<i>Cysticercus Bovis—</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with C. Bovis	0.22	—	—	—

The total number of carcasses examined during the year was 26,467. This is a decrease of 5,926 on the 1962 figure.

WEIGHT OF DISEASED AND UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL CON- DEMNED :

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Home-killed—Meat	...	...	...	2	6	—	11
Offal	...	...	...	6	3	2	8
Imported Meat	...	...	...	—	10	3	11
Total				9	0	2	2

The whole of this meat was either destroyed at the refuse destructor or processed for animal feeding stuffs.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

No animals were notified under this order during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS IN CALVES

No calves slaughtered at the City Abattoir were found to be affected with Tuberculosis.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Routine examination of all beeves was carried out and in 10 cases cysts were found. All of the affected carcasses and offal were sent for refrigeration at a temperature below 20°F. for 21 days in accordance with Ministry of Food Memo. 3/Meat.

OTHER FOODS INSPECTED AND SURRENDERED

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Canned Fruit	...	15	0	6½	Fruit	...	3	0	15½
Canned Vegetables	...	9	0	11¼	Baby Food	...			1¾
Canned Soup	...		2	19½	Cereals	...	1	0	27¼
Canned Fish	...		3	9¾	Poultry	...			24½
Canned Milk	...	1	1	16½	Jam and Syrup	...	16	1	16½
Canned Cream	...			24	Dairy Products	...			1
Canned Meat	...	19	3	25	Honey	...			1
Meat Products	...	1	0	24	Pickles	...			¾
Cooked Meat	...		2	3¾	Salad Dressings	...			½
Meat	...		2	19					
Meat Paste	...			2¼		3	19	1	25¾
Wet Fish	...	2	1	0					
Shell Fish	...			1¼	Fluid oz. of ice-				
Bacon	...		2	0	cream	...	3,840		
Frozen Foods	...	3	1	12¾	Bars of ice-				
Fruit Juice	...		1	25½	cream	...	668		
Fruit Pulp	...	2	0	16					

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION OF CARCASSES

					<i>Beeves</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Injury and Bruising	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Emaciation	...	...	...	...	—	1	7	4
Gangrenous Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
Moribund	...	...	...	...	—	—	4	—
Multiple Abscesses	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Immaturity	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Uraemia ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia (acute)	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Hyperaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Oedema ...	...	...	...	...	1	—	2	1
Septic Omphalophlebitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Sepsis of Pelvic Cavity	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Acute Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Septic Arthritis	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
					2	5	17	11

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

SAMPLING OFFICER'S REPORT 1963

The following table shows the number and nature of the articles submitted to the Public Analyst during the year, and the results of the analyses :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. Submitted</i>		<i>No. Genuine</i>		<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>	
	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Inf.</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Inf.</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Inf.</i>
Soup	—	7	—	7	—	—
Strained Cream Cereal ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sago Pudding	—	1	—	1	—	—
Creamed Rice Milk Pudding...	—	3	—	3	—	—
Milk	13	—	13	—	—	—
Hot Milk	5	—	1	—	4	—
Honey	—	6	—	6	—	—
Glucose	—	5	—	5	—	—
Jam	—	6	—	6	—	—
Baby Foods	—	7	—	7	—	—
Cereals	—	5	—	5	—	—
Swiss Birchermuesli	—	1	—	1	—	—
Haliborange Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—
Patent Medicines	—	5	—	5	—	—
Potatoes	—	1	—	1	—	—
	18	49	14	49	4	—
	67		63		4	

NOTES ON UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

<i>No. of Sample</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
27	Hot Milk	Contained 17.6% of extraneous water.	Letter of warning to Vendor
28	Hot Milk	Contained 8.8% of extraneous water.	Letter of warning to Vendor.
29	Hot Milk	Contained 7.1% of extraneous water.	Letter of warning to Vendor.
30	Hot Milk	Contained 4.7% of extraneous water.	Letter of warning to Vendor.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

			<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total</i>
Faeces :					
For Dysentery Organisms	...	...	3	42	45
For Food Poisoning Organisms	...	...	1	14	15
Ear, Nose and Throat Swabs:					
For Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	2	39	41

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease in the six wards of the City.

	<i>Bartonsham</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Holmer</i>	<i>St. Martins</i>	<i>St. Nicholas</i>	<i>Tupsley</i>
Measles ...	23	18	26	67	48	42
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	3	1	3
Scarlet Fever ...	2	—	1	3	3	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	3	1	1	2	—
Acute						
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping						
Cough ...	—	—	1	1	—	1

HEREFORD CITY, 1963

CONFIRMED CASES OF ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE ACCORDING TO QUARTER

<i>Disease</i>	<i>1st quarter</i>	<i>2nd quarter</i>	<i>3rd quarter</i>	<i>4th quarter</i>
Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	2	5
Measles ...	186	14	22	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	1
Ac. Pneumonia ...	1	—	4	3
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	2	1	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating

to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

TUBERCULOSIS

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Number on Register at 31st December, 1962	152	115	42	35
New Cases Notified	2	3	1	2
Moved into District	1	1	—	—
Moved out of District	3	2	—	—
Recovered	8	9	2	2
Died	6	2	—	—
Number on Register at 31st December, 1963	138	106	41	35

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**Section 47**

During the year no action had to be taken through the Magistrates Court to secure the removal of persons living in unsatisfactory conditions or who were in need of care and attention.

CAUSES OF DEATH (All Ages)

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	...	...	...	7	6	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	...	...	...	8	2	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	...	...	...	—	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms				24	20	44
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	...	...	23	29	52
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	...	...	31	37	68
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	4	4	8
Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	19	29	48
Other Circulatory Disease ...	...	...	...	12	8	20
Influenza ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	6	11	17
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	20	12	32
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea... ..	...	...	...	2	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	...	...	...	5	19	24
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	...	...	3	2	5
All other accidents	6	6	12
Suicide	2	—	2
Homicide	1	1	2
Total all Causes ...				195	205	400

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